



Connecticut Democratic Party

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**Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly
Submitted in Writing
To the
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Monday, February 27, 2012
on
Raised Bills 5250, 5254 and 217**

Chairwoman Slossberg, Chairman Morin and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Nancy DiNardo, and I am the chairwoman of the Connecticut Democratic Party. My testimony today is in **support** of Raised Bill No. 5250, *An Act Concerning the Appointment of Primary Polling Officials*, and in **opposition** to Raised Bill No. 5254, *An Act Concerning Primaries for Municipal or State Office*, and Raised Bill No. 217, *An Act Concerning Challengers as Polling Place Officials*.

I support the Secretary of State's proposal included in **Raised Bill No. 5250** to allow local election officials to look outside of their municipality for poll workers from the same political party should they be unable to find poll workers in their own municipality. The bill provides that outside poll workers could be retained from outside municipalities only after an exhaustive search goes unfulfilled. I support registrars reaching out to surrounding towns to make certain that polls are adequately staffed and voter access is assured.

I oppose, however, **Raised Bill No. 5254**, which would allow anyone, regardless of political affiliation, to work in a polling place. This legislation would allow any elector to be appointed to serve in the case of a primary, which I believe is a slippery slope. Connecticut has closed primaries and, as chairwoman of the Connecticut Democratic Party, I do not support open primaries.

Additionally, I oppose **Raised Bill No. 217**, which would eliminate appointed challengers at polling places. As chairwoman, I support the concept of challengers, and I do not believe there is any need to eliminate challengers.